

*Poecilocampa populi* (Linnaeus) December Moth. One at Glencoe, Argyll (Site 558; O.S. grid ref.: NN119567) on 14 March (October to December).

*Colostygia multistrigaria* (Haworth) Mottled Grey. One at Rhandirmwyn, Dyfed (Site 346; SN782441) on 22 December (March/April).

*Epirrita dilutata* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) (November Moth). One at Yarnar Wood, Devon (Site 266; SX786788) on 5 February (October/November).

*Odontopera bidentata* (Clerck) Scalloped Hazel. One at Rothamsted, Hertfordshire (Site 619 (Lodge); TL133131) on 10-13 October (May/June).

Thanks are extended to the operators of the light-traps cited in the text.— ADRIAN M. RILEY AND HUW L. JONES, Entomology and Nematology Department, IACR Rothamsted, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 2JQ.

### **Two species of *Crumomyia* Macquart (Dip.: Sphaeroceridae) apparently new to Kent**

The Sphaeroceridae cannot be said to be one of the most popular families of British Diptera. Nevertheless the excellent Handbook by Dr B. R. Pitkin (*Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects* Vol.10, Part 5e Lesser Dung Flies Diptera: Sphaeroceridae) gives very comprehensive county distributions for all the species. The following two species represent additions to the data given, although their occurrence in Kent is probably of no significance.

*Crumomyia pedestris* (Meigen) 2.xii.1984 Burham TQ715619. One male taken while “tussocking” for beetles along the eastern bank of the River Medway. This is a species with reduced wings and like several other species may not be found unless suitable collecting techniques are employed.

*C. notabilis* (Collin) 11.vi.1989 Shakespeare Cliff, Aycliffe TR3039. One male taken by general sweeping for Diptera in the site of former allotment gardens now developed as the A20 Dover to Folkestone road extension.— LAURENCE CLEMONS 14, St. John’s Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

### **A surprising record of *Chelifera diversicauda* Collin (Dip.: Empididae) in East Kent**

Representatives of the genus *Chelifera* are seemingly hard to find in the extreme south-east of the British Isles. Until recently the only species I had recorded within the county were *C. angusta* Collin and *C. precatoria* (Fallén) and, for the record, the data are given below.

*Chelifera angusta* Collin

21.vi.1983 Hothfield Common TQ968456; 2.vii.1984 Hothfield Common TQ970457.

*C. precatória* (Fallén)

30.v.1983 Oare Gravel Pits TR003629; 31.v.1983 Murston TQ92956485; 11.vii.1983 Hothfield Common TQ9645; 5.vi.1988 Holy Well TR222381; 16.vii.1988 Brockhill Country Park TR1435; 13.v.1989 Westbere Marshes. TR198608; 20.v.1989 Grange Alders TR1636; 4.vi.1993 Hale Street Ponds TQ6749; 21.viii.1994 Vinters Park LNR TQ775559; 10.vi.1995 Hothfield Common TQ969463.

During some routine sorting and curation of my empidid collection in March 1998 I came upon an unidentified male *Chelifera* which had been taken on 29.viii.1988 at Brockhill Country Park near Hythe in south-east Kent (Grid reference TR1435). A more detailed examination based on a dissection of the genitalia and further scrutiny of the characters given by Collin, 1961 (*British Flies Empididae*) revealed that the specimen related to *Chelifera diversicauda*. Collin stated that *C.diversicauda* had been taken in Scotland, the Lake District, West Yorkshire, Wales and Herefordshire and hence it is easy to assume that the species is characteristic of the north and west. Brockhill Country Park is situated on the Hythe Beds of the Lower Greensand and whereas a large part is cattle grazed grassland it supports a large pond and two gravel streams – Slay Brook and Brockhill Stream – and the Diptera fauna is not inconsiderable. It may be worth noting that additional studies of the insects in the Folkestone-Hythe area have revealed several species more characteristic of western counties.– LAURENCE CLEMONS 14, St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

***Blastobasis decolorella* Woll. (Lep.: Blastobasidae) in north-east Hampshire**

I was first introduced to *Blastobasis decolorella* through the good agency of Mr Wakely when I lived in Dulwich, South London, and later was pleased to find it new to East Suffolk (in 1959) and West Suffolk (in 1991). In July and August 1997 I again saw several at Framlingham in Suffolk but was very surprised to find one here in Selborne at my cottage m.v. light on 7 August 1997. Its congener, *B. lignea*, has become very common but, as far as I am aware, this was the first observation of *decolorella* to be recorded for North Hampshire.– ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

***Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* Deg. and other hoverflies (Dip.: Syrphidae) in a London suburban garden**

It seems worth placing on record the occurrence of the generally uncommon hoverfly *Xanthogramma citrofasciatum* in my former garden at Blackheath, south-east London (West Kent), where I took single females on two occasions – 28.v and 1.vi.1969 – the dates being typical for the species. They were in the same area, a piece of rough ground with grass and a few clumps of mint *Mentha spicata*, and bare or almost bare patches. It was on these last that both flies were seen to rest and were caught. The situation was unlike that usually chosen by its commoner congener